

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8 are currently pending in the present application.

The rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Stewart is respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that unlike amended claim 6, which is drawn to a *magnetic* tape, Stewart discloses a photographic film comprising a thermoplastic polymeric substrate overlaid with a strip of *non-ferromagnetic* metal, such as stainless steel (see e.g., abstract, column 1, lines 25 and 42, column 2, line 67, column 3, line 17, column 4, lines 15, 19, 20, 55 and 56). Applicants further submit that Stewart also fails to disclose the presently claimed limitations of servo signals being recorded on tracks positioned along a longitudinal direction of the magnetic tape, as well as the particular curvature and length values associated with the reference side edge, which extends along the longitudinal direction of the magnetic tape.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of claims 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Hattori in view of Stewart is respectfully traversed.

The deficiencies associated with the disclosure of Stewart, as discussed above, are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

The present invention is drawn to a linear-recording magnetic tape comprising a plurality of tracks having servo signals recorded thereon, wherein said tracks with recorded servo signals are parallel to the reference side edge and extend along the longitudinal direction of the linear-recording magnetic tape. The present invention is also drawn to a linear-recording magnetic tape having a particular curvature and length associated with the reference side edge, which extends along the longitudinal direction of the magnetic tape.

The present specification discloses (page 4, lines 5-22, page 5, lines 22-25, and page 6, lines 1 and 2) the following:

“In a typical *linear-recording* tape, a magnetic layer or a back coat layer has tens to hundreds of tracks which are provided parallel in the width direction and extend along the longitudinal direction. *On such tracks, servo signals are recorded.* The positions of such tracks in the width direction are each determined by the distance from one edge called reference edge. If the tape is regularly wound along the flange on the reference edge side, therefore, *the linear-running characteristics and the servo characteristics can be improved.* If the linear-running characteristics decrease with the servo characteristics, it can be hard to read the recorded data, so that the error rate can be increased.

For the purpose of regularly winding the tape along the flange on the reference edge side, *the reference side edge should be moderately shorter in length than the other side edge; namely, the tape should have a moderate curvature along the longitudinal direction.*”

“The present invention provides a linear-recording magnetic tape having *an edge on a reference edge side shorter in length than that on the other side.*”

“The present invention provides the linear-recording magnetic tape, wherein *the magnetic tape has a curvature of 1 to 5 mm per 1 m of the tape.*”

The *linear-recording* magnetic tape of the present invention has tracks with recorded servo signals that are *parallel* to the reference side edge and extend along the longitudinal direction of the linear-recording magnetic tape. Applicants submit that Hattori does not disclose the linear-recording magnetic tape as presently claimed, but rather a *helical scan* magnetic tape (a.k.a., DAT and DDS magnetic tape) having a plurality of tracks with recorded servo signals that extend *diagonally* along the longitudinal direction of the helical scan magnetic tape (column 23, lines 10, 24, 50 and 62, column 24, lines 52 and 66, column 25, lines 6, 15, 23, 34, 41 and 62, column 30, lines 37 and 63, column 31, lines 3, 12, 36 and 59, and column 32, lines 4, 13, 25, 36 and 66). This distinction is evidenced by the following internet publications, which are enclosed herewith for the Examiner’s convenience:  
<http://www.answers.com/topic/magnetic-tape>; and <http://www.answers.com/helical%20scan>.

Therefore, the linear-recording magnetic tape of the present invention is structurally distinct from the helical scan magnetic tape disclosed in Hattori.

The magnetic tape of the present invention exhibits a *curvature* associated with the reference side edge, which extends along the longitudinal direction of the magnetic tape. In contrast, Hattori discloses a magnetic recording tape having: “*almost no curl*” (column 17, line 65, and column 18, line 1); “*curl as small as possible*” (column 12, lines 51 and 52); and “*no curl*” (column 17, line 61).

Therefore, Hattori provides clear guidance to a skilled artisan for reducing the curvature as much as feasibly possible, with a complete and utter absence of curvature being particularly preferred. Based on such a disclosure, a skilled artisan clearly would not have been motivated to purposely impart a curvature to the magnetic tape, as presently claimed.

As acknowledged by the Examiner on page 5, lines 13 and 14 of the outstanding Official Action, Hattori likewise fails to disclose a magnetic tape having a side edge on a reference edge side that is shorter in length than that on the other side.

Applicants submit that a skilled artisan would not have been motivated to modify the disclosure of Hattori with that provided by Stewart, since these references are drawn to non-analogous art. More specifically, the disclosure of Hattori is directed to magnetic recording tape, whereas the disclosure of Stewart is directed to photographic film. Applicants further submit that even if sufficient motivation does exist for combining the disclosures of these two unrelated prior art references, the disclosures of Hattori and Stewart, when taken alone, or in combination, nevertheless fail to anticipate or render obvious the presently claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully reminded that in the event that the product claims drawn to the elected invention are found allowable, method claims drawn to the non-elected invention, which are commensurate in scope with the allowed product claims, should be

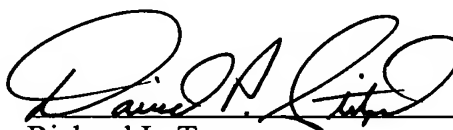
Application Serial No. 10/790,017  
Attorney Docket No. 249455US  
Reply to Official Action dated December 18, 2006

rejoined and examined for patentability, pursuant to MPEP § 821.04 and *In re Ochiai*, 71  
F.3d 1565, 37 USPQ2d 1127 (Fed. Cir. 1995).

In conclusion, Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for  
allowance and notification to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard L. Treanor", is written over a horizontal line.

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Registration No. 44,360

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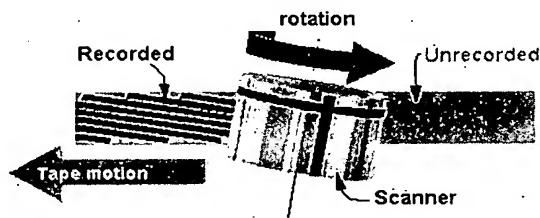
Computer Encyclopedia  TechEncyclopedia

## helical scan

A tape recording method that uses a spinning read/write head and diagonal tracks. Although it uses a rather complex transport mechanism, it is very gentle on the tape. After the cassette is inserted into the drive, the tape is pulled out and wrapped around the read/write head. While the head rotates as much as 30 meters per second, the tape travels as little as 1 inch per second (ips), compared to linear technologies where the tape travels at more than 100 ips.

Helical scan was invented by Ampex in 1956. It was the only method that provided fast-enough transfer rate and sufficient storage capacity to record video on tape so that TV programs could be recorded. Using two-inch tape and running at 15 ips, the going rate for tape recorders of the time, the rotating head created an effective rate of 1500 ips. The helical scan method is used in many different tape technologies, including VHS videotape, DV/MiniDV (camcorders), 4mm DAT, Exabyte's 8mm and Mammoth lines, Sony's AIT and StorageTek's Redwood.

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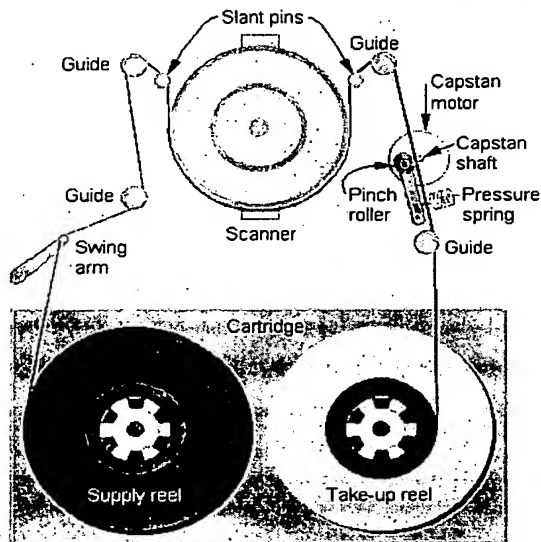
<http://www.answers.com/helical%20scan?print=true>

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helical scan: Information from Answers.com

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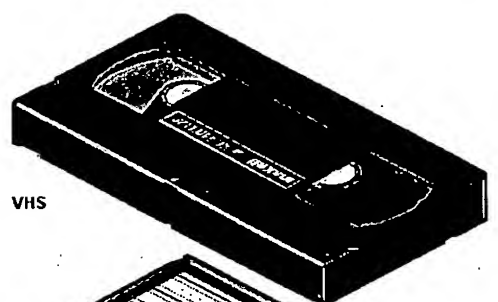
## Helical Scan

The helical scan method uses a rotating head and diagonal tracks, which allows a slow-traveling tape to provide a very fast transfer rate. The tape is pulled out of the cartridge and wrapped around the read/write head.

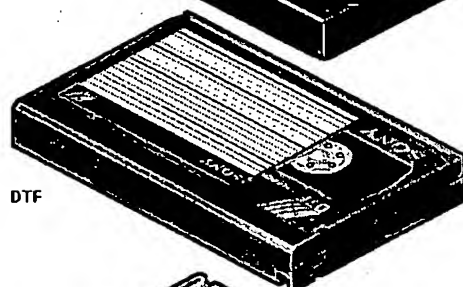
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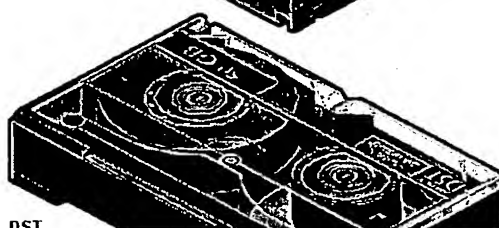
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VHS



DTF



DST

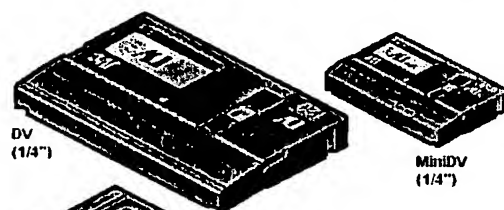
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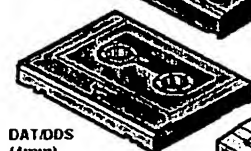
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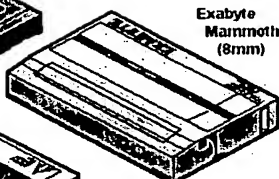


DV  
(1/4")

MiniDV  
(1/4")



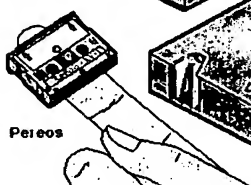
DAT/DDS  
(4mm)



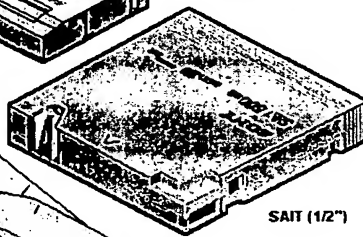
Exabyte  
Mammoth  
(8mm)



AIT (8mm)



Pereos



SAIT (1/2")

Helical Scan Formats

<http://www.answers.com/helical%20scan?print=true>

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As you can see from this illustration, there are numerous helical scan formats used for digital storage. The predecessors to VHS tape (top) were the reason for helical scan in the first place. Although mostly used for analog recording, there have been digital applications of VHS tape as well.

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The Real Thing

Notice the slant on this helical scan head from a VHS video recorder. This precise angle of the head is used to record and play back all helical scan formats.

Two Related Articles from CMP's TechWeb

- ["Ultrium" Tape Products Ready To Roll](#)
- [Bomb-Detector Tops X-ray's Effectiveness](#)

<http://www.answers.com/helical%20scan?print=true>

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Wikipedia

helical scan



The head drum of a Hi-Fi NTSC VHS VCR; three of the six heads face the reader. The helical path of the tape around the drum can clearly be seen.



The same head drum with the rotating portion elevated for clarity



<http://www.answers.com/helical%20scan?print=true>

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The rotating portion of the head drum showing the rotary transformer and three of the six tape heads used in this particular VCR

Helical scan or *striping* is a method of recording higher bandwidth signals onto magnetic tape than would otherwise be possible at the same tape speed with fixed heads. It is used in video cassette recorders, digital audio tape recorders, and numerous computer secondary storage and backup systems.

In a fixed head system, tape is drawn past the head at a linear speed. The head creates a fluctuating magnetic field in response to the signal to be recorded, and the magnetic particles on the tape are forced to line up with the field at the head. As the tape moves away, the magnetic particles carry an imprint of the signal in their magnetic orientation. If the tape moves too slowly, a high frequency signal will not be imprinted — the particles' polarity will simply oscillate in the vicinity of the head, to be left in a random position. Thus the bandwidth capacity of the recorded signal can be seen to be related to tape speed — the faster the speed, the higher the frequency that can be recorded.

Video and digital audio need considerably more bandwidth than analog audio, so much so that tape would have to be drawn past the heads at very high speed in order to capture this signal. Clearly this is impractical, since tapes of immense length would be required. (However, see VERA for details of a partially successful linear videotape system.) The generally adopted solution is to rotate the head against the tape at high speed, so that the relative velocity is high, but the tape itself moves at a slow speed. To accomplish this, the head must be tilted so that at each rotation of the head, a new area of tape is brought into play; each segment of the signal is recorded as a diagonal stripe across the tape. This is known as a *helical* scan because the tape wraps around the circular drum at an angle, traveling up like a helix.

There were a number of practical problems to be overcome with this system. The high tape/head speed could lead to rapid wear of both the tape and the head, so both need to be polished extremely smooth, and the head made of a hard wearing material. In addition, most systems operate with an air bearing separating the heads from the surface of the tape. Supplying signals to a rotating head is also problematic — this is usually accomplished by coupling the signal(s) inductively through a rotary transformer as shown in the third photograph. The transport mechanism is also much more complex than a fixed head system, since, during loading, the tape must be pulled around a rotating drum containing the head(s) so that a complete stripe can be recorded on each revolution. In a VCR for example, the tape must be pulled right out of the cassette case and threaded around the drum, and between the capstan and pinch roller. This leads to complex and potentially unreliable mechanics.

## Azimuth recording

<http://www.answers.com/helical%20scan?print=true>

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Every videotape system attempts to pack as much video as possible onto a given-sized tape, but information from one recording stripe (pass of the video head) can't be allowed to contaminate information on the adjacent stripes. One method to provide isolation between the stripes is the use of guard bands (unrecorded areas between the stripes), but this wastes valuable tape space.

Helical scanning recorders instead usually use a method called azimuth recording. The head drum usually contains two heads with the magnetic gap of one head tilted slightly leftwards and the magnetic gap of the other head tilted slightly rightwards. (The tilt of a magnetic head is referred to as its *azimuth* adjustment.) Because of the alternating tilts, each head will not strongly read the signal recorded by the other head and the stripes can be recorded immediately next to each other, alternating between left tilt on one television field and right tilt on the next television field. (In practice, it's not uncommon for the recorded stripes to overlap somewhat.)

Using azimuth recording, the need for guard bands is completely eliminated.

## Contrast with quadruplex recording

Helical scanning was a logical progression beyond an earlier system (pioneered by Ampex) known as quadruplex recording, also referred to as *transverse* recording. In this scheme, the rotating head drum ran essentially perpendicular to a 2 inch wide tape and the slices recorded across the tape were nearly perpendicular to the tape's motion. U.S. quadruplex systems revolved the head drum at 14,400 revolutions per minute (240 revolutions per second) with four heads on the drum so that each television field was broken into sixteen stripes on the tape (which required appropriately complex head-switching logic). By comparison, the longer stripe recorded by a helical scan recorder usually contains an entire TV field and the two-headed head drum spins at the frame rate (half the field rate) of the TV system in use.

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## Dictionary



magnetic tape  
n.

A plastic tape coated with iron oxide for use in magnetic recording.

## Computer Encyclopedia

TechEncyclopedia

magnetic tape

A sequential storage medium used for data collection, backup and archiving. Like videotape, computer tape is made of flexible plastic with one side coated with a ferromagnetic material. Tapes were originally open reels, but were superseded by cartridges and cassettes of many sizes and shapes.

Tape has been more economical than disks for archival data, but that is changing as disk capacities have increased enormously. If tapes are stored for the duration, they must be periodically recopied or the tightly coiled magnetic surfaces may contaminate each other.

### Sequential Medium

The major drawback of tape is its sequential format. Locating a specific record requires reading every record in front of it or searching for markers that identify predefined partitions. Although most tapes are used for archiving rather than routine updating, some drives allow rewriting in place if the byte count does not change. Otherwise, updating requires copying files from the original tape to a blank tape (scratch tape) and adding the new data in between.

### Track Formats

Tracks run parallel to the edge of the tape (linear recording) or diagonally (helical scan). A linear variation is serpentine recording, in which the tracks "snake" back and forth from the end of the tape to the beginning.

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Legacy open reel tapes used nine linear tracks (8 bits plus parity), while modern cartridges use 128 or more tracks. Data are recorded in blocks of contiguous bytes, separated by a space called an "interrecord gap" or "interblock gap." Tape drive speed is measured in inches per second (ips). Over the years, storage density has increased from 200 to 38,000 bpi. See [helical scan](#) and [compact tape](#).

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Tracks on Magnetic Tape

Except for helical scan recording, most tracks on magnetic tape run parallel to the length of the tape.

### Magnetic Tape Summary

The following magnetic tape technologies are summarized below. See also [magnetic disk](#) and [optical disk](#).

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## QIC Tape

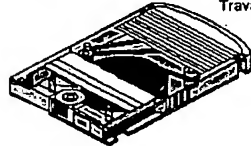
### 3.5" Minicartridges



QIC,  
QIC-Wide



Travan



QIC-EX

Quarter inch cartridges (QIC) are widely used for desktop backup. QIC uses .25" tape, and both QIC-Wide and Travan use .315" (8mm) tape.

QIC-Wide drives accept QIC cartridges, and Travan drives accept QIC and QIC-Wide tapes.

Verbatim's QIC-EX cartridges hold more tape for both QIC and Travan drives.

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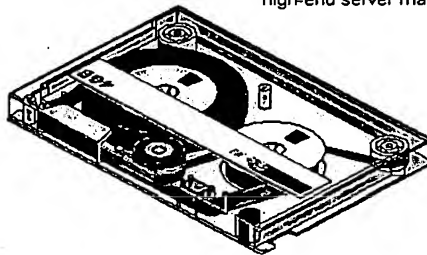
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### 5.25" SLR Data Cartridges

Data Cartridges come in capacities up to 70GB. Tandberg Data has enhanced the Data Cartridge with its SLR line for use in medium to high-end server markets.

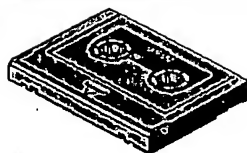


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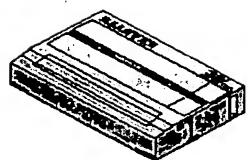
### DAT 4mm Tape



DAT tapes use the DDS recording standard. The cartridges look like small audio cassettes, and users love the compact format.

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### Exabyte 8mm Tape



Exabyte's 8mm tapes provide capacities from 2.5 to 60GB. The Mammoth drive is the high-end unit. The cartridges are smaller than a deck of playing cards.

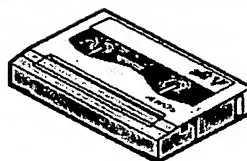
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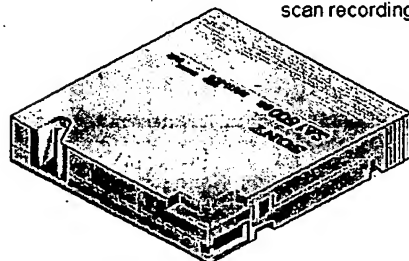
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### AIT 8mm and SAIT 1/2" Tape



Sony's AIT (8mm) and SAIT (1/2") cartridges include a Memory-In-Cassette feature, which is a chip that stores tape status and indexing information.

Both formats use helical scan recording.

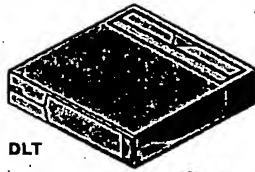


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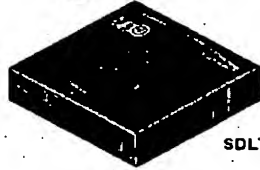
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## DLT Tape



DLT

DLT and Super DLT tapes are widely used in the mid to high-end server market. After insertion, the tape is pulled from the cartridge onto the tapeup reel inside the drive.



SDLT

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## 3480, 3490, Magstar (3590) Tape



IBM's half-inch tape cartridges provide high performance for archiving and backup on mainframes and midrange systems. Capacities have ranged from 200MB to 10GB. After insertion, the tape is pulled onto the takeup reel inside the drive.

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## Magstar MP Tape



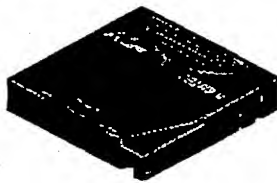
IBM's Magstar MP uses an 8mm, cassette-style cartridge that holds 5GB. Intended for midrange server use, it is especially designed for use in robotic libraries.

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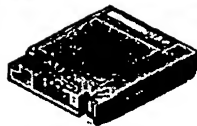
## Ultrium - LTO



The Ultrium is the high-end LTO format with native capacities starting at 100GB.

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## Redwood Tape



StorageTek's Redwood tapes hold up to 50GB. They use half-inch tape and single-hub cartridges like the 3480/3490s, but are helical scan rather than linear.

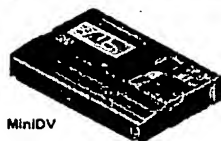
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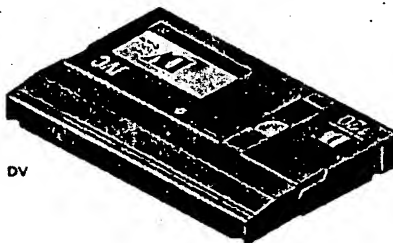
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## DV and MiniDV



MiniDV

Aimed at the consumer camcorder market, DV tape provides one hour (MiniDV) and three hours of digital video storage.



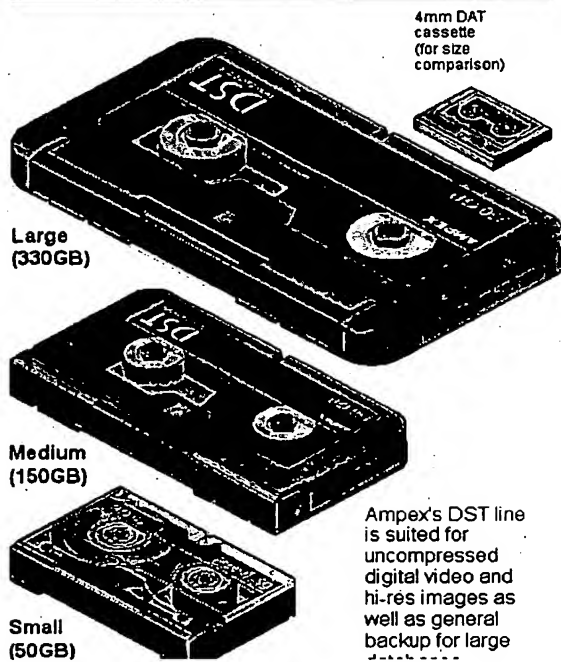
DV

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## DST



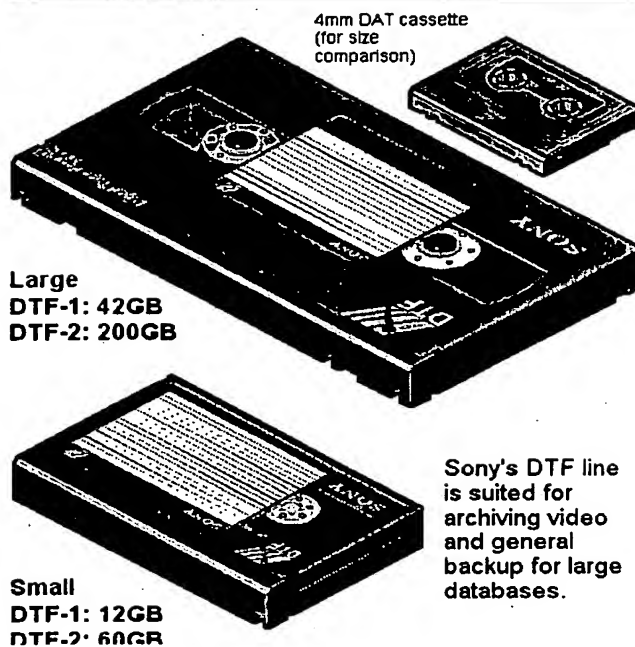
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## DTF

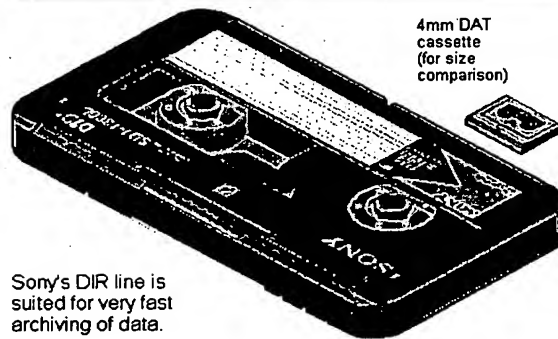


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## DIR



4mm DAT  
cassette  
(for size  
comparison)

Sony's DIR line is  
suited for very fast  
archiving of data.

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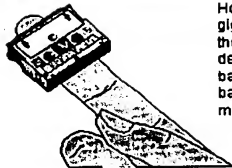
## Open Reel Tape



The venerable half-inch  
open reel has been used  
for half a century. The  
drives and tapes are still  
being made for legacy  
applications.

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## Pereos Tape



Holding more than a  
gigabyte (compressed),  
the Pereos tape is  
designed for mobile  
backup. Powered by AA  
batteries, connection is  
made via the parallel port.

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Worldwide Market Projection		
COMPACT TAPE DRIVES (UNIT SHIPMENTS IN THOUSANDS)		
	2003	2009
QIC (Travan 3.5" SLR 5.25")	293	458
DAT	939	765
8MM	168	273
SAIT	1	38
DLT/SLDT	406	805
LTO (Ultrium)	262	610
<b>TOTAL SHIPMENTS</b>	<b>2,074</b>	<b>2,949</b>
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From Computer Desktop Encyclopedia  
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Worldwide Market Projection		
PERFORMANCE TAPE DRIVES (UNIT SHIPMENTS IN THOUSANDS)		
	1999	2005
1/2" CARTRIDGE (3490, 3590, 9640-9940)	64.6	72.8
1/2" REEL	6.4	0
HELICAL SCAN (Reel-to-reel, DTF/DRL, DST)	1.5	0.6
<b>TOTAL SHIPMENTS</b>	<b>72.5</b>	<b>73.4</b>
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#### Marketing Dictionary BARRON'S

##### magnetic tape

Tape on which computer-readable data is electronically stored via magnetic particles embedded in the tape; also called *mag tape*. Most magnetic tapes in use today are 1/2 inch wide, holding 800, 1600, or 6250 bytes

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per inch (BPI). IBM mainframes usually require 9-track 6250 BPI tape. Magnetic tape is the most common medium used for list rentals, so that lists from a variety of sources can be fed into a computer in preparation for a merge/purge. Magnetic tape is less expensive than disk storage and, depending on the size of the tape, can have a greater storage capacity than even high-density disks. However, tapes are much more susceptible to damage during handling and shipping. Many magnetic tape users are switching from reels to cassettes. Tape cassettes are easier to load, require less storage space, and are less damage-prone than reels. The next evolutionary step will be to entirely replace tape with electronic transmission of data. See also [key-to-tape](#).

#### Military Dictionary



magnetic tape

(DOD) A tape or ribbon of any material impregnated or coated with magnetic or other material on which information may be placed in the form of magnetically polarized spots.

#### WordNet



Note: click on a word meaning below to see its connections and related words.

The noun magnetic tape has one meaning:

Meaning #1: memory device consisting of a long thin plastic strip coated with iron oxide; used to record audio or video signals or to store computer information

Synonyms: mag\_tape, tape

#### Wikipedia

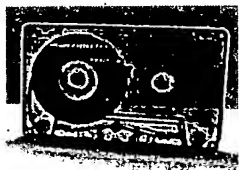


magnetic tape

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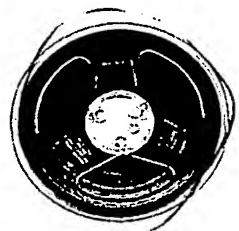


Compact audio cassette

Magnetic tape is a non-volatile storage medium consisting of a magnetic coating on a thin plastic strip. Nearly all recording tape is of this type, whether used for [video](#), [audio storage](#) or general purpose digital data storage using a computer.

Magneto-optical and optical tape storage products have been developed using many of the same concepts as magnetic storage, but have achieved little commercial success.

## Audio recording



7 inch reel of 1/4 inch-wide recording tape, typical of consumer use in the 1950s-70s.

Magnetic tape was first invented for recording sound by [Eritz Pfeleumer](#) in 1926 in Germany, based on the

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invention of magnetic wire recording by Valdemar Poulsen in 1898. Pflueger's invention used an oxide powder coating on a long strip of paper. This invention was further developed by the German electronics company AEG, which manufactured the recording machines and B&S, which manufactured the tape. An important discovery made in this period was the technique of AC biasing which dramatically improved the fidelity of the recorded audio signal.

Due to the international hostilities preceding World War II, these developments were largely kept secret from the rest of the world. It was only after the war that Americans, particularly Jack Mullin and Major John Herbert Orr, were able to bring this technology out of Germany.

A wide variety of recorders and formats have developed since.

## See also

- History of sound recording#Magnetic recording - Magnetic tape in the context of the history of sound recording.
- Sound recording and reproduction#Magnetic tape - Magnetic tape in the context of the history of sound recording.
- Audio storage & Audio format - General lists of audio recording formats, including magnetic tape.
- Audio tape length and thickness - Details of different audio tape formats.
- Tape recorder - Details regarding the workings of the recording machines.
- Reel-to-reel audio tape recording - Details of using old style recorders.
- Multitrack recording - Advanced usage of sophisticated tape recorders.

## Video recording

*Main article: Videotape*

Video recording demands much higher bandwidth than audio recording and was made practical by the invention of helical scan. Early video recorders were reel-to-reel but modern systems use cartridge tapes and videocassette recorders are very common in homes and television production facilities, though many functions of the VCR are being replaced by optical disc media.

## Data storage

*Main article: Magnetic tape data storage*

The use of magnetic tape for data storage has been one of the constants of the computer industry.

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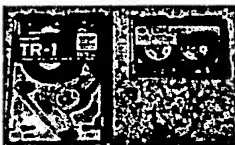
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Magnetic tape was first used to record computer data in 1951 on the Eckert-Mauchly UNIVAC I. The recording medium was a strip of  $\frac{1}{8}$ " (12.7 mm) wide thin metal, consisting of nickel-plated bronze (called Vicalloy). Recording density was 128 characters per inch (198 micrometre/character) on eight tracks at a linear speed of 100 in/s (2.54 m/s), yielding a data rate of 12,800 characters per second. Of the eight tracks, six were data, one was a parity track, and one was a clock, or timing track. Making allowance for the empty space between tape blocks, the actual transfer rate was around 7,200 characters per second.



Small open reel showing the Beginning-Of-Tape reflective marker.

Early IBM tape drives were mechanically sophisticated floor-standing drives that used vacuum columns to buffer long u-shaped loops of tape. Between active control of powerful reel motors and vacuum control of these u-shaped tape loops, extremely rapid start and stop of the tape at the tape-to-head interface could be achieved. (1.5ms from stopped tape to full speed of up to 112.5 IPS) When active, the two tape reels thus fed tape into or pulled tape out of the vacuum columns, intermittently spinning in rapid, unsynchronized bursts resulting in visually-striking action. Stock shots of such vacuum-column tape drives in motion were widely used to represent "the computer" in movies and television.



Quarter-inch cartridges.

Most late 1970's and early 1980's home computers used compact audio cassettes encoded with the Kansas City standard.

Most modern magnetic tape systems use reels that are much smaller than the old 10.5 inch open reels and are fixed inside a cartridge to protect the tape and facilitate handling. A tape drive (or "transport" or "deck")

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uses precisely-controlled motors to wind the tape from one reel to the other, passing a read/write head as it does. Modern cartridge formats include **DAT/DDC**, **AIT**, **DLT** and **LTO**.

Tape has quite a long data latency for random accesses since the deck must wind an average of  $\frac{1}{2}$  the tape length to move from one arbitrary data block to another. Most tape systems attempt to alleviate the intrinsic long latency, either using indexing, where a separate lookup table is maintained which gives the physical tape location for a given data block number, or by marking blocks with a tape mark that can be detected while winding the tape at high speed.

Tape remains a viable alternative to disk due to its lower cost per bit. Though the areal density is lower than for disk drives, the available surface on a tape is far greater. The highest capacity tape media are generally on the same order as the largest available disk drives (about 1 TB in 2007.) Tape has historically offered enough advantage in cost over disk storage to make it a viable product, particularly for backup, where media removability is also important. The rapid improvement in disk storage density and price, coupled with arguably less-vigorous innovation in tape storage, has reduced the market share of tape storage products.

## References

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### Magnetic storage media

[Wire](#) (1898) • [Tape](#) (1928) • [Drum](#) (1932) • [Ferretle core](#) (1949) • [Hard disk](#) (1956) • [MCR](#) (1956) • [Thin film](#) (1962) • [Twistor](#) (~1968) • [Floppy disk](#) (1969) • [Bubble](#) (~1970) • [Card](#) (19xx) • [MRAM](#) (2003)

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